

UNIT PROJECT

Medicines Around You

PRODUCT: oral report on a medicinal plant with samples

SUBJECT: local plants with medicinal uses

Research and Take Notes

- **Research** Search the Internet, using the key words “medicinal plants” and the name of the region you live in, to identify possible plants to research. You might also use an encyclopedia to research the healing customs of the native peoples of your area.
- **Take notes.** Paraphrase or write notes in your own words from the sources you consult. Be specific about what illnesses the plant is used to treat as well as how the medicine is prepared. Find out what is the important compound or active ingredient in the medicine. If you find a picture of the plant, make a photocopy or sketch of it. Be sure to note the title, author, publisher, and location of each source.

Collect Samples

- **Find samples.** If you have access to a plant conservatory or nature museum, seek the aid of an employee to help you find a sample of the plant. Visit a forest preserve only if you are accompanied by a forest ranger or other adult. If you cannot find any samples of the plant, find as many pictures or make as many sketches as you can of the plant.
- **Arrange samples.** Mount your samples or pictures on a sheet of poster board or create another type of display.

Develop Your Report

- **Look at your information.** Read again all the information you have collected. Decide what information you wish to include in the report.
- **Plan your visuals.** Decide how you will use your visuals. Will you direct attention to any particular parts of the plant? Will you demonstrate how the plant is prepared for use as a medicine? Be sure your visuals can provide the information you wish them to show.
- **Write a script.** Write a script for your report. Read it aloud and revise any parts that sound rough.

Practice Your Report

- **Practice** Practice your report several times before delivering it. Use a tape recorder so you can listen to how you sound.
- **Present** You will present your report to the class on _____ (date)!

EVALUATION RUBRIC: MEDICINES AROUND YOU				
Content	Completely	Mostly	Partially	Poorly
Introduces the plant; gives some information on the conditions it is used to treat	5	4	3–2	1
Explains how the plant is prepared to make a medicine	5	4	3–2	1
Identifies at least one active ingredient or describes how the plant medicine works	5	4	3–2	1
Visuals/Samples				
Has put effort into collecting and/or sketching visuals	5	4	3–2	1
Visuals clearly labeled and referred to in the report	5	4	3–2	1
Oral Presentation				
Speaks clearly, slowly, and with enough volume	5	4	3–2	1
Has an effective opening and closing	5	4	3–2	1
Presentation is smooth and integrates the visuals	5	4	3–2	1
Presentation is the appropriate length	5	4	3–2	1
Use of Class Time				
Efficient and productive	5	4	3–2	1
“Special Something” extra credit				
Report has some outstanding aspect	5			
Subtotal:				

Total

50

=

%